

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending. Claims 1-18 have been withdrawn. Claim 24 has been amended to replace the word “third” with “second”. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 1. This amendment is made to correct a typographical error, and not for any reason related to patentability.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-18, drawn to a method; and

Group II: Claims 19-34, drawn to an apparatus.

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group II, without traverse, that was provisionally made during a telephone interview conducted on January 5, 2006 with applicants' attorney.

The Examiner has further required the election of a single species for examination from among the following species:

Species 1: Figure 1 - an apparatus without a cooling tube;

Species 2: Figure 2A - a cooling tube passing through space outside a second porous material and having a third wall of porous material;

Species 3: Figure 2B - a first porous material with holes;

Species 4: Figure 3 - an apparatus with a porous substrate and a membrane layer; and

Species 5: Figure 4 - an apparatus having an alternative arrangement of porous material layers.

Applicants hereby elect Species 1, without traverse. Claims 19-21, 24 and 28 read upon the elected species.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be considered on its merits, and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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